



Speaker Biographies

David Absher

Mr. Absher is a native of Kentucky, and is the Manager of Environmental Engineering, Energy Management, and Maintenance Coordination for Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky Inc. (TMMK), located in Georgetown, Kentucky. He is responsible for the development and management of all environmental and energy programs and regulatory compliance at the site. Mr. Absher has been the energy manager for TMMK since 1997. Prior to Environmental Engineering, Mr. Absher was the Manager of Facilities and Utility and Energy Management at TMMK, responsible for all aspects of Facility management for the 1300 acre site and 7.8 million square feet building areas. Mr. Absher participated in the first North American Toyota eco-plant design for the Baja California, Mexico plant, and then the build of the plant. Mr. Absher was also responsible for the start up of the plant's Engineering and Maintenance Department. Mr. Absher worked 20 years in the Facilities Control Department prior to moving to the Environmental Engineering Department at TMMK. Mr. Absher served on the Governor's panel to develop the Kentucky Climate Action Plan in 2009. Mr. Absher serves in the community as Vice President of Mallard Point Owners Association, a committee member of the LameDuck Triathlon for charity, and is an avid supporter of the Humane Society and the United Way.

Richard Sedano

Mr. Sedano, director of the Regulatory Assistance Project's (RAP) US programs, served as Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service (VDPS) for nine years before joining RAP in 2001. Prior to serving as Commissioner, he held various engineering staff positions at VDPS, which represents utility consumers in all regulatory matters and is the state's energy office and consumer advocate. With RAP, Mr. Sedano advises state commissions and other decision-makers and works with them in collaborative settings on energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy, pricing, smart grid, transmission and wholesale electric market issues. He is supporting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) - National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Smart Response Collaborative, and the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network Utility Motivation Working Group. In November 2009, he was awarded the NARUC Mary Kilmarx Award. Mr. Sedano served as chair of the National Association of State Energy Officials from 1998-2000. He is currently a member of the board of directors of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and co-chair of its EM&V Forum. Mr. Sedano received his BS in engineering from Brown University and his MS in engineering management from Drexel University.

Sandra Hochstetter-Byrd

Ms. Byrd serves as Vice President of Strategic Affairs for the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, focusing on energy policy and strategic planning. Sandra previously served a seven-year term as Chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission during the administration of Governor Mike Huckabee. During her years in public office she focused on regional electricity planning, state and federal collaboration, integrated resource planning, and the implementation of state energy efficiency policy. Sandra serves on the Electric Power Research Institute's Research Advisory Committee and is a member of the DOE-EPA State Energy Efficiency Action initiative. She is a ten-year member of New Mexico State University's Center for Public Utilities Advisory Board, an officer of NARUC's Commissioners Emeritus, and a member of both the Harvard Electricity Policy Forum and Aspen Institute's Energy Policy Forum. Sandra earned a *Juris Doctorate* degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.